

Ruppel, James

From: DEQ-WRD-TMR <DEQ-WRD-TMR@michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018 12:25 PM
To: Ruppel, James
Subject: Monitoring Request follow-up

Good afternoon James,

Thank you for your water quality monitoring request. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Water Resources Division (WRD) staff have reviewed all of the sites (460 total) that have been requested of the Department this year. In light of available resources, other requests, and other monitoring priorities, we do plan on conducting water quality monitoring on Saginaw Bay.

MDEQ WRD continues to monitor the coastal areas of Saginaw Bay to gather information relevant to making an informed assessment of its impairment status related to eutrophication/nutrient issues. Data collected during 2017, while an important part of understanding current conditions, was not intended to be a single-year effort but is part of a multi-year effort expanded in 2018 to include more beaches and shoreline locations around the Bay. Similar to our approach on understanding nutrient issues in Lake Erie, we plan to augment these shoreline data collections with satellite imagery and analysis conducted by the NOAA to provide a broader understanding of blooms and nutrient expression throughout the Bay and with an understanding of extent, frequency, duration of possible impacts. As such, it is estimated that sufficient information to assess the current condition of the Saginaw Bay may not be available until the 2020 IR cycle, at the earliest.

Please let us know if you have any other questions or comments and thank you for your commitment to Michigan's resources